

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FOR THE PRESS

FEBRUARY 7, 1936

The United States and Mexico this afternoon provisionally signed at Mexico City a Convention for the protection of migratory birds, and providing for a system of permits for the control of transportation of migratory birds and game mammals over the Mexican-American border. The Convention will be formally signed this evening at 6 p.m.

The Convention, which will be formally signed by the Honorable Josephus Daniels, American Ambassador to Mexico, and General Eduardo Hay, Mexican Minister for Foreign Affairs, will come into force when ratified by both countries, and will remain in force for fifteen years after which time it may be denounced by either the United States or Mexico upon twelve months' notice.

This agreement with Mexico, which is of much interest to sportsmen and conservationists, limits the hunting period for migratory birds in each country to a maximum of four months in each year and establishes a close season for wild ducks from March 10 to September 1.

The Convention is an extension as between the United States and Mexico of the principles of conservation established in the well-known Migratory Bird Treaty between the United States and Great Britain concluded some twenty years ago under which protection is afforded to birds migrating between the United States and Canada.

Officials of the Biological Survey, United States Department of Agriculture, who actively participated in the negotiations, consider that the Convention should mean very much for the future of the migratory birds of North America. These officials have pointed out that for the welfare of migratory birds two main things are essential. One is a habitat suitable to the various species, where they can nest and rear their young, and where they can feed during winter and on their long travels between their summer and winter homes. The other is man's voluntary curb on his desire to kill the birds. It is to effect adequate protection during the ordinary hunting seasons that conservation treaties are negotiated with other countries. The treaties, moreover, provide for the establishment of the needed sanctuaries.